

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
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AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE
USDOCOLANDSOUTHEAST
USDOCOSOUTH
USNMR SHAPE
CINCUSNAVEUR
USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION USNATO
AMCONSUL ADANA
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMCONSUL IZMIR

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USEEC

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TAGS: PLOS, EAIR, TU, UR
SUBJ: TURKISH-SOVIET FIR TALKS

REF: ANKARA 4786 (DTG 281045Z JUN 78)

1. DURING MEETING WITH EMBOFFS JUNE 30, GAZNE SOYSAL,
MFA SECTION CHIEF FOR FIR (FLIGHT INFORMATION REGION)

MATTERS, CONFIRMED THAT SOVIETS AND TURKS HAD AGREED DURING RECENT VISIT TO MOSCOW OF PRIMIN ECEVIT THAT NEGOTIATIONS WOULD BEGIN ON FIR AGREEMENT FOR BLACK SEA AIRSPACE. HE SAID, HOWEVER, THAT THE RUSSIANS HAD SAID THEY ARE NOT PREPARED YET TO BEGIN NEGOTIATIONS AND HAD ONLY AGREED THAT TALKS COULD BEGIN AFTER RUSSIANS HAD MADE NECESSARY ADVANCE STUDIES; PRESS REPORTS TO THE EFFECT THAT TURKISH NEGOTIATING TEAM HAD REMAINED BEHIND TO CONTINUE TALKS ON THIS SUBJECT WERE INCORRECT.

2. SOYSAL SAID TURKEY HAD SET THE BOUNDARY OF THE AIRSPACE UNDER ITS CONTROL ALONG A LINE JUST NORTH OF ITS TERRITORIAL WATERS IN THE BLACK SEA IN 1952. AT THAT TIME AND FOR SOME YEARS AFTERWARD, THE AIRSPACE OVER THE CENTRAL BLACK SEA WAS "EMPTY"; LATER THE SOVIETS UNILATERALLY MOVED THEIR CONTROL LINE DOWN TO THE TURKISH LIMIT. THE PRESENT SITUATION REPRESENTS AN ANOMALY BOTH BECAUSE NO AGREEMENT HAS EVER BEEN SIGNED AND BECAUSE THE SOVIET-CONTROLLED AIRSPACE NOW CONTINUES WELL TO THE SOUTH OF THE NEW DIVIDING LINE BETWEEN SOVIET AND TURKISH CONTINENTAL SHELF.

3. ALTHOUGH SOYSAL MENTIONED THAT THE TURKISH MILITARY WOULD LIKE TURKISH AIRSPACE TO BE EXTENDED FURTHER INTO THE BLACK SEA FOR SECURITY REASONS, HE SAID THE MAIN NEED FOR A CHANGE IN THE PRESENT ARRANGEMENT IS IN ORDER TO ALLOW THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW AIR-CORRIDOR LINKING EUROPE AND THE MIDDLE EAST VIA LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BULGARIA, THE BLACK SEA, AND TURKEY. PRESENT FIR BOUNDARIES WOULD REQUIRE SUCH A CORRIDOR TO PASS THROUGH SMALL PORTION OF SOVIET AIRSPACE; SOYSAL SAID THAT FOR PLANES TO ENTER SOVIET AIRSPACE AND THEN LEAVE "FOUR MINUTES LATER" WOULD CREATE A PROBLEM FOR PILOTS. SOYSAL COMMENTED THAT TURKISH RADAR ALREADY HAS THE NECESSARY CAPACITY FOR MONITORING AIR TRAFFIC IN THE MIDDLE OF THE BLACK SEA AND EXTENSION OF TURKISH FIR IS THEREFORE TECHNICALLY FEASIBLE. SPIERS

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